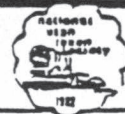


THE TOKEN HUNTER

A Publication of the

National Utah Token Society

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January, 1991



Dedicated to Collecting, Recording, and Preserving Medals and Tokens

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Next Meeting

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January Speaker

BOB CAMPBELL
"How To Clean and Preserve Coins
and Tokens"

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Congratulations to the new officers and board. With all of the new blood, this should be a good year. Often we get in a rut and do the same old things time after time. It helps to have new input to get out of those ruts and make changes for the better. If our new board comes up with new ideas or changes, support them and let's make this another good year for the NUTS club.

Editor

★ PRIZES ★

door prize: COTTONWOOD DAIRY TOKEN G.F.O. QUART O. MILK

drawing prizes: 1922 PEACE DOLLER

BURNS POOL HALL, COPPER FIELD G.F.5c.I.T.

COOK TRANSPORTATION CO. G.F.O.FARE

F. ANSELMO & CO. G.F.25c I.T.

EUREKA MEAT & PRODUCE CO. G.F.50c I.M.at R.

MORONI CO-OP, MORONI UTAH G.F.5c I.T.

PANAMA POOL HALL (MAGNA) G.F.5c I.T.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear fellow N.U.T.S. members,

I would like to begin by saying thanks for electing me President. I will fulfill my duties and obligations to the best of my abilities. I think we should thank Bryon for doing a superb job as our past President. Hopefully I can follow in his footsteps.

Well another year is upon us. It's too bad there is so much snow and cold this Winter, it definitely limits the token hunting. Now is a good time to go to the library and do the research for those outings. The libraries are filled with countless bits of information about hidden areas that might just produce some nice finds. A little research and planning can result in a fun-filled productive summer. We should all start thinking about places to go this summer. Please bring up your choices at the next few meetings.

I had a good luck streak late last autumn. I was hunting an area on 900 West St. around 400 South St. in Salt Lake City. It was a warm afternoon in late October after I was off work. I noticed a vacant lot that recently had the knee high weeds scraped off it. I figured this lot was already searched after finding some new clad coins and a multitude of pull tabs. I popped up a '74 nickel and then hit a target a few inches away that read in the pull tab range on my meter about 4 inches deep. I assumed to see another nickel, but instead to my extreme delight I found my first gold piece, a 1906S five dollar coin in very fine condition! The thrill of that find still hasn't worn off. Be sure to dig those pull tab readings, that's where your gold coins will be. If anyone has similar treasure finds you would like to write I would encourage you to do so. I personally love to read such stories. I hope to see you all at the January meeting.

Sincerely, Eric J. Bernkopf



WHAT'S IN A NAME

By Harry F. Campbell N. L. G.

TREASURE



Although the word 'Treasure' has meant gold, silver, and jewels from the past, other things such as old bottles, token coins, dog tags, photos, small collectibles, etc. are now starting to bring very fair prices indicating that they are a treasure to someone. Therefore, these should not be overlooked when on the search for the lost loot of some long dead outlaw. With the high cost of gasoline, vehicles, etc. to take one to the search area, it is nice to know that some collectible may pay for a tank of gasoline or a meal on the road.

Preparation prior to the search of knowing your area and taking precautions against the natural elements, together with adequate food and survival gear are as much as a treasure if one is stranded out in the desert. Water is always the most essential element along with a first aid kit. Ropes along with digging tools, clothing to suit the climate, and head covering against the sun should always be in one's mind.

Knowledge of an area and permission to enter private property will save you frustration as well as a possible legal suit. If you are taking a ride out into areas unfamiliar to you, it means that you have not done your research, and you will never find that lost loot. Only the man who takes the trouble to investigate will be rewarded, as he has narrowed the odds down towards his favor.

Past hiding places that were favored by the pioneers and prospectors were simple places such as the chicken coop. Hidden valuables had no better watch dog than the cry of disturbed roosters. Water troughs for horses were also favored as the constant slopping of water caused the area to remain muddy, and therefore obliterate signs of digging when caching a jar of coins. Inside the window sashes and walls of a house were used often, together with bricks that were removed from the fireplace exposing a small hole area. The most popular was the post hole area of one's fence line, under which was secreted a jar for valuables. Burying a jar or secure box was ideal if you had a good land mark to go back to it, like an old tree. Miners would often carve out a hole in the wall of a mine, insert their cache, and plaster over the area with mud. A black light lamp shone on these areas will show the difference between the mud and natural surroundings. Modern day persons will often take a piece of PVC pipe, secret some valuable, and then seal the ends, making it waterproof and, because of depth, undetectable to a metal detector.

The advent of the sophistication of metal detectors over the past few years allow even a novice a small treasure that has lain undisturbed from when it was dropped, lost, or perhaps buried on purpose. They even allow one to locate gold in the form of nuggets or fine flour type gold referred to a 'placer' gold. The latter type of gold is more common in Utah.

Read all you can on your best site that you wish to explore, and contact your local historical society or librarian for book or map references, and learn about the history. Read a map carefully and note the mining areas, as many shafts still lay waiting uncovered ready to swallow the unwary. Snakes are a part of the West

along with scorpions. Watch when digging in old dump areas for both cave-in of trenches that you may be digging and for the scorpions that often live in such places.

Take along a friend for company and help in tight spots - and always remember not to damage any historical sights, in particular Indian ruins, as these are against the law to disturb such sights. Share your knowledge, if possible, regarding some interesting find with others, and above all, have a good time as that's what treasure hunting is all about. Never take yourself or your stories too seriously in case of disappointment.

PALACIO FLORES' FORTUNE

Three Hundred Thousand Dollars Waiting to be Recovered in Texas

In the early part of the 1800's when San Antonio was the home of many wealthy Spaniards and the commercial center of all Northern Mexico, a mule train started for the city of Mexico.

There were thirty mules, each loaded with 8,000 silver dollars and a considerable amount of gold coin, the total amount being about \$300,000.00.

The caravan was lead by Captain Palacio Flores, a prominent and trusted employee of the government. In addition to the drivers of the mule train, there were about fifty well armed guards. The old and well worn national highway through San Luis Potosi and Louterey was taken and the dangerous mountain defiles south of Saltille were passed without any attack on the train being made. The Rio Grande river was crossed a few miles above Laredo and the train made its way rapidly southwards.

In those days, the national highway passed through what is now Dimmit County, Texas following the bank of the Pena creek for several miles. On the bank of that stream was a favorite camping place, which is now called Brand Rock water hole. This hole is located at a sharp bend in the stream and is of unfathomable depths, although it evidently had a natural bottom, as the water in it did not pass into any interior cavity.

When this camping place was reached, Captain Flores decided to remain there a few days resting the mules before continuing the journey. He considered that the dangerous portion of that country had been passed through and only left ten men on guard the first night. Even this number seemed unnecessary as there were no signs of any attack, and no pickets were posted the following day.

It was about noon on that day when the bandits suddenly sprang upon the unprotected camp out of a dense live oak thicket. Captain Flores and his men were taking their noon day siesta when the attack was made, but they did not submit without a desperate struggle. The bags of gold and silver were piled in a heap near the deep water hole, and when Captain Flores found that the robbers were about to get possession of the wealth, he ordered the drivers to throw it all into the placid pool. The command was obeyed, and the bandits massacred every member of the mule train party with the exception of a driver named Alejondro Lajero, who succeeded in making his escape, proceeding to San Antonio where he gave an account of the terrible adventure, a record of which was made at that time

and is still in existence there. His story was discredited until the parties to whom the money had been consigned made an investigation and found the victims and evidence that the bandits had made efforts to recover the wealth from the pool.

Attempts were then made to explore the hole, but without success. Heavy weights have been sunk to a depth of several thousand feet, but the bottom has never been reached.

As gold never dissolves in water, it's finding alone would be worth a King's ransom.

HIDDEN TREASURE

An agent of a wrecking company in San Francisco, left in June 1871 for Panama for the purpose of opening negotiations with the government of Ecuador regarding \$7,000,000 supposed to have been sunk in the deep blue sea at a well defined point off the Equadorian shore. It was well known that Morgan and other notorious pirates who had infested the South American coast during the early reign of the Spaniards were in the habit of sinking vessels they could not plunder owing to close pursuit. The natives of that distant region asserted that there were millions of dollars hidden in the sea all along the entire coast of Panama. Many ineffectual attempts had been made to discover portions of the treasure but without success. This was proof that modern man was not the only one smitten with the treasure bug!

A BURIED CITY

In May of 1889 a very interesting discovery of cliff dwellings was made near the line between New Mexico and Colorado at the lower end of the San Luis Valley. The area was on the Santa Clara Creek, ten miles from Espanola.

Other noteworthy cliff dwellings were situated some forty miles from the Espanola railhead, but were reported difficult to get to. In the San Luis Valley, buildings were built in a circle some six hundred yards in circumference.

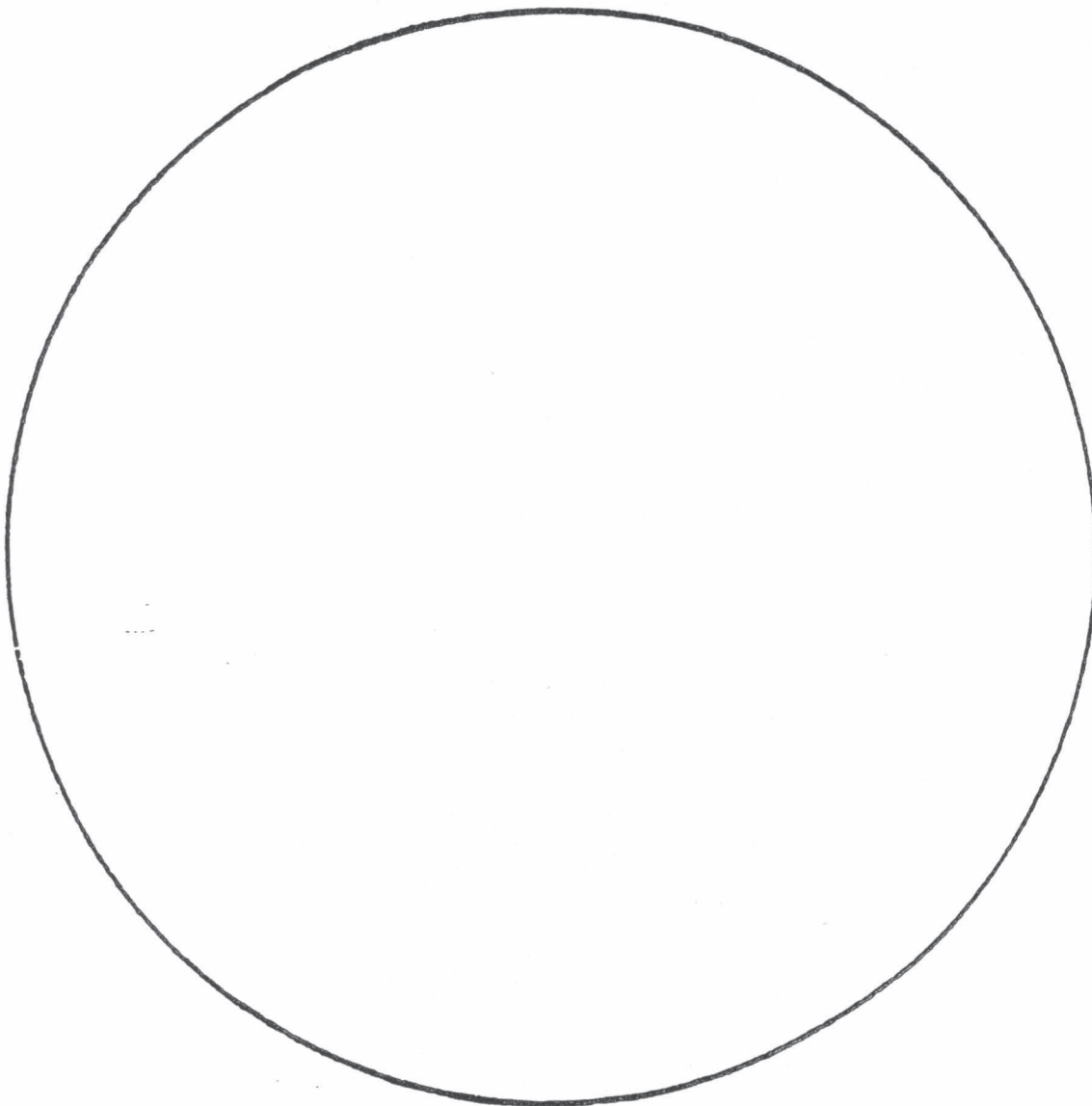
The bricks were described as light as pumice stone, but very hard. About every eight feet was a cross wall with twenty foot apartments running out from them. The entire structure was covered with two feet of dirt, with nothing but a slight elevation of the ground to indicate their presence. A short distance away lay a mound some fifty feet in diameter which, when opened, contained many skeletons. Upon exposure to the air, most crumbled and many turned to dust. Some excellent pottery was found in good condition. It was thought at the time of discovery that another buried city may be found on the plateau above as there were caves in the adjoining cliffs in which broken pottery was found.

A HIDDEN CITY

In May of 1889, news was received in the United States of America of a discovery of great archeological importance in the state of Chiapas, Mexico, near the ruins of Palanque, this being a large hidden city in the depths of the forest. Some buildings five stories high were reported in a good state of preservation. A well paved road several miles long was perceptable in the midst of the tropical forest.

It's that time of year again, when we get started on this year's medal design. Use the blank medal form below and design a medal. There will be some kind of prize for the winning design.

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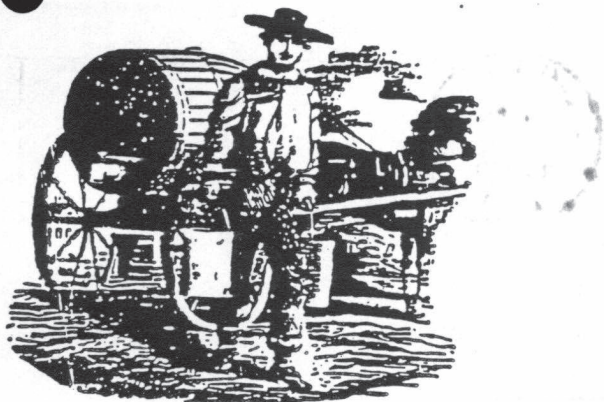
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